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THE WORLD'S BEST NEWS & FACTS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

NEWS
Poll reveals views on elections
p4

SPORTS
Texas takes Little League softball title
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HOW TO
Get set for the new school year
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Making sense of the world

THE WEEK Junior

THE BEST MAGAZINE FOR CURIOUS KIDS

CLIMATE ACTION

Landmark environmental bill becomes a law in the US p2

DID YOU KNOW?

- The law is called the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022.
- It aims to tackle climate change and medicine costs.
- Democrats and Republicans were divided over it.

SUN POWER
The first solar panel, created in New Jersey in 1954, was used to power a toy Ferris wheel.

Surrounded by lawmakers, President Joe Biden signs the Inflation Reduction Act on August 16.

Arctic report released

Snow in the Arctic

A study published on August 11 found that greenhouse gases are causing the Arctic to heat up about four times faster than the rest of the world, leading to a rapid loss of sea ice. After the Finnish Meteorological Institute released the findings, scientists renewed their call for urgent action to fight climate change.

Climate bill is signed into law

On August 16, President Joe Biden signed into law the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022, the most significant climate legislation in US history. The signing took place in a small ceremony in the State Dining Room at the White House.

What is in the legislation?

The law provides about $370 billion to combat climate change (the long-term changes in weather patterns, largely due to human activities). That is the largest amount of money the US government has ever committed for this purpose. One of the law's main goals will be to help the US reduce emissions of greenhouse gases (gases that trap heat in Earth's atmosphere and warm the planet). It provides financial incentives to Americans who buy electric vehicles and upgrade their homes to use clean energy such as solar and wind power. The law also dedicates $20 billion to help farms use more environmentally friendly practices and $5 billion for protecting forests.

The law will support wind power.

What else will the law do?

The Inflation Reduction Act includes about $100 billion to address healthcare costs for Americans. It will help about 13 million Americans pay for health insurance. The law will also lower the price of some prescription drugs and guarantee that 3.3 million people with diabetes will pay no more than $35 a month for their medication. The law will pay for many of its programs by imposing new taxes on major corporations and the wealthiest citizens.

How was the law passed?

A bill has been in the works since Biden, a Democrat, proposed a plan for it in 2021. Democrats in the Senate (one half of Congress, the branch of government that makes laws) took 18 months to draft it because members of the party disagreed on what to include. In particular, Senator Joe Manchin of West Virginia opposed early drafts of the bill because he said it would raise taxes and have a negative effect on the coal industry in his state. But after holding negotiations with Chuck Schumer of New York, the top Senate Democrat, Manchin made a surprising announcement on July 27 that a compromise had been reached and he would support the bill. On August 7, the bill passed in the Senate by a vote of 51–50 and went to the House of Representatives (the other half of Congress), where it passed 220–207 on August 12. Although all Republicans in the House voted against it, Democrats have a majority there and passed it quickly before sending it to Biden.

How did people react?

Nancy Pelosi, the top House Democrat, said, "This legislation is historic, it's transformative, and it is really a cause for celebration." Kevin McCarthy, the top House Republican, called the bill a "spending spree" and said it failed to address "the rising price of gas, groceries, and just about anything else" Americans are facing. At the signing, Biden called the law "the biggest step forward on climate ever," adding that it "is not just about today. It's about tomorrow." While many environmentalists applauded the law, others emphasized that this is only the beginning of the work that is needed to urgently address climate change.

What will happen next?

Biden said a larger, more formal celebration of the new law will be held at the White House on September 6. The law will immediately make benefits available for Americans who make eco-friendly choices, such as installing new energy-efficient windows and doors in their homes. Other climate programs will take longer to go into effect. Changes to corporate taxes and some prescription benefits will begin in 2023.

Japan remembers bombing victims

On August 9, Nagasaki, Japan, honored the victims of a bombing that devastated the city 77 years ago. The US dropped the nuclear bomb on August 9, 1945, shortly before the end of World War Two (1939–1945).

During the war, Japan and the US were enemies. Japan belonged to the Axis Powers, which included Nazi Germany and Italy, while the US was part of the Allied Forces, with the UK, Russia, and France. The bomb killed about 70,000 people immediately and released enough poisonous radiation to kill thousands more people in the months and years that followed.

About 1,600 people attended the ceremony, including survivors of the bombing, Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, and other leaders. The event was held at Nagasaki Peace Park, which was created after the war to honor the victims and call for world peace. The mayor of Nagasaki, Tomihisa Taue, said at the ceremony that instead of fighting wars, people should nurture "a culture of peace that spreads trust [and] respects others."

Doves were released at the ceremony.

Some of the objects from Benin

DID YOU KNOW?
With more than 217 million people, Nigeria has the largest population of all African countries.

Nigeria reclaims artifacts

The Horniman Museum and Gardens in London, in the UK, announced that it will return 72 artifacts to Nigeria, in Africa. The items were taken from the kingdom of Benin, in what is now southern Nigeria, 125 years ago. The decision is part of an international effort to return African artifacts that were stolen during European colonization (when a group of people moves into and takes control of an area).

The items to be returned include bells, fans, baskets, and ceremonial objects. The collection also includes 12 brass sculptures, which are part of a group of artifacts from the royal palace known as the Benin Bronzes. (Despite their name, the Benin Bronzes are made from a variety of materials, including ivory, wood, and brass.)

In 1897, British military forces invaded the kingdom's capital, Benin City, and burned and stole from the palace. Thousands of pieces of art and other valuable items were carried back to the UK, ending up in Europe and the US. By the 1970s, Nigeria began asking for the return of the artifacts. Several museums, universities, and governments have agreed, but not all pieces have been returned.

In January, Nigeria's National Commission for Museums and Monuments (NCMM) requested the return of the 72 items. They will be displayed in the new Edo Museum of West African Art, set to open in Nigeria in 2025. "What is more important than being in control of how your heritage, your artifacts, are displayed?" said Abba Tijani, head of the NCMM. "We very much welcome this decision."

IT'S AN AMAZING WEEK FOR...

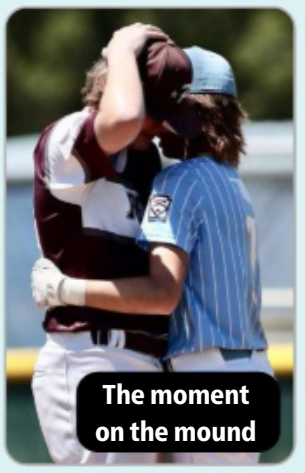
MAKING KIDS SMILE

At Children's Hospital Los Angeles, a man who makes casts for kids turns them into art. Luis Ruiz has decorated thousands of casts since a boy asked him to draw a happy face 10 years ago. The best part, he says, is "bringing those smiles."

Three of the casts

GOOD SPORTS

A video taken at a Little League tournament game in Texas went viral. After pitcher Kaiden Shelton accidentally hit batter Isaiah Jarvis on his helmet, Jarvis was OK but saw that Shelton was upset. So after reaching first base, Jarvis walked to the mound, hugged Shelton, and said, "Hey, you're doing great. Let's go."



The moment on the mound

A WINNING NAME

Meet Fritz, a baby hippo born this month at the Cincinnati Zoo. The public was invited to submit and vote on names for the calf, who is the little brother of the zoo's famous hippo, Fiona. About 90,000 people sent in suggestions, and "Fritz" got 56% of the vote. The newborn's name "fits this spunky little guy's personality," said a keeper.

It's Fritz!

ON THE COVER: GETTY IMAGES (5); ON THIS PAGE: HORNIMAN MUSEUM & GARDENS (3); AP; CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL LOS ANGELES; COURTESY OF LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL; CINCINNATI ZOO; ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES (3)

A new survey says voters want elections to change.

DID YOU KNOW?
The state with the highest number of electoral votes is California, with 55.

Learn more about elections

How many Electoral College votes does your state have? Who are the electors? What happens if the Electoral College vote results in a tie? The system to elect a US President is complicated, but we've published an article that clearly explains it. You can find it at tinyurl.com/TWJUS-ElectoralCollege.

Poll finds support for popular vote

A new poll from the Pew Research Center found that most Americans support the idea of electing US Presidents by popular vote rather than the Electoral College, the system currently used.

What is the Electoral College?

The Constitution (highest US law) established the Electoral College as the method for choosing a President. It is a group of 538 people, called electors, from every state and the District of Columbia. Each state has the same number of electors as it does representatives in Congress. States with higher populations have more electors. Each elector has one vote and usually gives it to the candidate who receives the most votes in the state. It takes at least 270 electoral votes to win.

What did the survey find?

In the Pew poll, 63% of Americans (and 70% of people ages 18–19) said they think Presidents should be elected by popular vote. This is the total number of votes candidates receive from individual voters nationwide. By contrast, 35% said the Electoral College should stay. The result shows an increase in support for the popular vote since 2021, the last time Pew asked this question. In that poll, 55% favored switching to the popular vote and 43% supported keeping the Electoral College.

Why do some want to change the system?

Five times in US history, a President has won the Electoral College while losing the popular vote. This happened most recently in 2000 (when George W. Bush won) and 2016 (when Donald Trump won). Some say this is unfair and each person's vote should count. Supporters of the Electoral College argue that the system forces candidates to pay attention to all the states, rather than focusing more on those with larger populations.

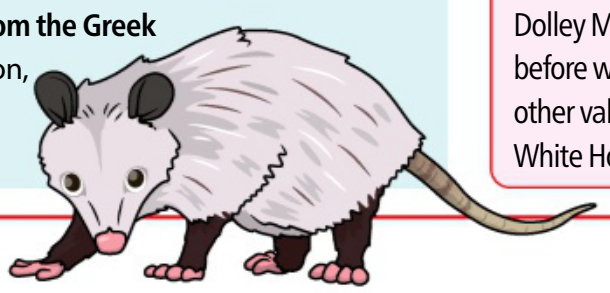
Could the Electoral College be eliminated?

Abolishing the Electoral College would require the support of the President, both parts of Congress (the Senate and the House of Representatives), and most state legislatures. Although there have been nearly 700 attempts to change or eliminate it throughout the nation's history, there is no strong effort taking place now.

WORD OF THE WEEK

POSSUM

"Possum" is short for "opossum." The animal takes its name from a Native American word meaning "white dog." The possum is a marsupial, an animal that is carried in its mother's pouch. "Marsupial" comes from the Greek marsupion, **meaning "pouch."**



THE WEEK IN HISTORY

August 24, 1814

British troops invade Washington, DC

On August 24, 1814, British troops invaded Washington, DC, and set fire to the White House and the Capitol building. At that time, the US was fighting the British in a war that became known as the War of 1812. Alerted to danger, First Lady Dolley Madison fled the White House the day before with a portrait of George Washington and other valuables. The war ended in 1815, and the White House and Capitol were repaired.

The White House after the fire

Prices in Texas

Gas prices dropping across US

For the first time in five months, gas prices have dipped below $4 in most states. The national average for a gallon of regular gas was $3.99 on August 11, according to The American Automobile Association. Experts say that the price drop is most likely caused by decreasing oil prices and a decline in demand for gas as summer, the main travel season, winds down. As *The Week Junior* went to press, gas prices had fallen for 62 consecutive days.

The new park

Park opens in San Francisco

A new park called the Presidio Tunnel Tops has opened in San Francisco, California. The 14-acre park sits on top of two highway tunnels, which were built after an earthquake destroyed parts of a highway in 1989. Development of the Presidio Tunnel Tops began in 2014 and offers views of San Francisco's Bay Area and the city's famous Golden Gate Bridge.

The winning doodle

Google names "doodle" winner

Sophie Araque-Liu, a 16-year-old from Florida, has won the 2022 "Doodle for Google" contest. In the annual event, US students in kindergarten through 12th grade compete to have their artwork featured on Google's homepage. This year's drawing prompt was "I care for myself by...." Araque-Liu's doodle was titled "Not Alone." She explained, "I care for myself by accepting others' care for me."

Serena Williams after a recent competition

Serena Williams announces retirement

Tennis champion Serena Williams announced on August 9 that she will retire from the sport. Williams, age 40, will leave the game as one of the most accomplished female athletes of all time and one of the first to also become successful in business. In an article she wrote in *Vogue* magazine, she said she would step away from the court after the 2022 US Open, which begins August 29. She said she will focus on her family and businesses.

Williams and her older sister Venus learned tennis from their father on the courts of Los Angeles, where they grew up. As teenagers, they began dominating the game with powerful serves and ground strokes. Serena Williams won her first US Open at age 17 in 1999, becoming the first Black player since Arthur Ashe in 1975 and the first Black woman since Althea Gibson in 1958 to win a Grand Slam (major tournament) singles title. She and Venus also won the doubles title at the 1999 US Open. In all, she won 23 Grand Slam titles, one short of a record set by Margaret Court. Among male and female active players, Williams has the highest number of victories in singles, doubles, and mixed-doubles combined.

Williams has also worked in acting and fashion design, helping to create tennis clothing she wore on the court. She founded a company that invests in businesses run by women. In 2011, she was named a Unicef Goodwill Ambassador and supported education for children in Africa.

The US Open trophy

After she made her announcement, Williams was hailed as a trailblazer. Coco Gauff, an 18-year-old pro tennis player who is Black, said Williams "made me believe that I could dominate too." In the *Vogue* article, Williams said she is moving "toward other things that are important to me." She said she has mixed emotions about retiring: "I don't want it to be over, but at the same time I'm ready for what's next."

THE WEEK'S SILLIEST HEADLINE

"Black bear enters Connecticut home, raids snacks from kitchen" ***UPI***

GETTY IMAGES (4); COURTESY OF GOLDEN GATE NATIONAL PARKS CONSERVANCY/RYAN WHITE; GOOGLE; ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES (3)

Around the world

Dry weather is good for salt farms.

France
Salt farmers do well during drought

Hot weather in Europe has brought one of the continent's worst-ever droughts (extreme lack of rain). One of the few groups benefiting from the heat, however, are those who farm sea salt. In France, farmers said they are producing almost twice as much salt as usual because the heat waves are causing land to dry out. Some farmers reported that they have enough salt in reserve for the next two years.

Many people wore traditional costumes.

Mexico City, Mexico
Parade celebrates Indigenous people

On August 9, Indigenous people paraded through the streets of Mexico's capital city to celebrate their culture and demand equal rights. Indigenous people are descendants of those who lived somewhere before another culture arrived and took over. The event marked the United Nations' International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples.

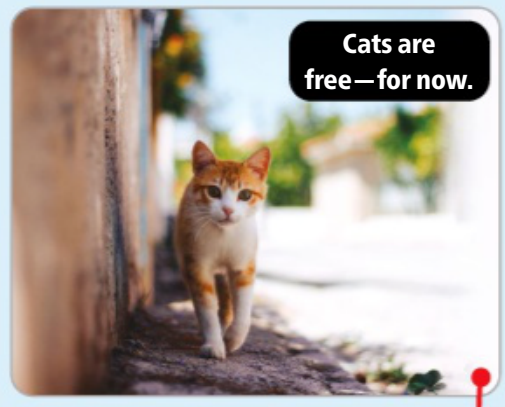
Women won government seats.

Nairobi, Kenya
Kenya elects new leaders

William Ruto has become president of Kenya after winning a general election held on August 9. A record number of female governors were chosen, with women winning seven of the 47 positions (compared to three in the last government). At least six of the 290 seats in Kenya's National Assembly were also won by women.

Walldorf, Germany
Cats can roam outside again

People in the town of Walldorf have been ordered to keep their cats indoors or on a leash since May, to protect a local species of bird known as the crested lark. On August 15, the rules were lifted, and cats no longer have to stay inside. Walldorf's mayor said the cat lockdown is likely to return in spring 2023.


Cats are free—for now.

Zambia
Journalist honored

Dingindaba Jonah Buyoya, a Zambian journalist, has won the Komla Dumor Award given by the BBC (the UK's public broadcaster). Buyoya was chosen for his work at Zambia's Diamond Television. His prize, which includes the opportunity to work with BBC journalists in London and report in Africa for BBC World, honors journalists from Africa and is named after a journalist from Ghana who worked for the BBC.

Dingindaba Jonah Buyoya

GETTY IMAGES (7); SHUTTERSTOCK (2); CRISTIAN LEYVA/ZUMA PRESS WIRE/SHUTTERSTOCK

Around the world

Balsamic vinegar being made in Italy

Italy
Sour battle begins

Italy is taking Slovenia to court to defend one of its most famous products—balsamic vinegar. The term *aceto balsamico di Modena* (balsamic vinegar of Modena) is geographically protected—only producers in Italy's Emilia-Romagna region can use it. Slovenia would like to use the name, too.

The city of Hamamatsu during the storm

Japan
Tropical storm sweeps central Japan

Residents of central Japan experienced heavy rain and strong winds on August 13 as Tropical Storm Meari swept the country. Homes were damaged, trains were delayed, flights were canceled, and sections of highway were temporarily blocked off. Some areas had 50% more rain than is typical for the whole month of August. A cleanup operation is underway.

Afghan women protest in Kabul.

Kabul, Afghanistan
Protests mark one year of Taliban rule

As the Taliban (a military and political group) marked the first anniversary of its return to power, protests took place in the capital, Kabul. About 40 women marched, chanting "bread, work, and freedom," before soldiers stopped them. Since the Taliban took over, it has taken away the rights of many Afghan women and girls, including the right of girls to attend high school.

India won bronze.

Chennai, India
Indian women make chess history

A team of chess players has become the first Indian women's team to win a medal at the Chess Olympiad. The tournament, which draws countries from around the globe, takes place every two years. India won bronze, while Ukraine won gold and Georgia took silver. The Indian team's previous best result was fourth place in 2012.

Tehran, Iran
Museum unveils art

The Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art has unveiled work by artists such as Pablo Picasso and Andy Warhol. The museum opened in 1977, but many of the artworks were removed after Iran's revolution in 1979. Iran's new rulers did not approve of western culture and believed the art was offensive. Much of it is now back on display and has so far been seen by more than 17,000 people.

Andy Warhol's art is on display.

Should people take off shoes indoors?

A growing number of people say outdoor footwear belongs at the door.

What you need to know

- **It's customary in many cultures and countries in Asia, Africa, and Europe to remove shoes at the door.**
- **People remove shoes as a show of respect to their hosts and also to keep homes free of dirt and germs brought in from outdoors.**
- **Traditionally, fewer people in the US remove their shoes before entering the home, but more people are starting to adopt the practice.**
- **Research is mixed on whether removing shoes has health benefits.**

WOW! The oldest leather shoe ever found is 5,500 years old and was discovered in a cave in Armenia in 2010.

In many countries and cultures around the world, it has been a tradition for thousands of years for people to take off their shoes when they step inside. Removing shoes is a sign of respect and helps keep homes and other indoor spaces clean. As awareness of the practice and concerns about dirt and germs increase, the custom is becoming more common in the US as well. Many people are asking visitors to take off their shoes at the door. However, plenty of other people think requiring a visitor to remove their shoes is awkward or even rude. What do you think? Should people take off shoes indoors?

Yes—there's no such thing as clean shoes

Outdoor shoes bring in more than just mud. One study showed that 96% of shoe soles have bacteria from poop on them, and another found that dirt from outside contains unhealthy germs and chemicals. Why would anyone want these things in their home? The dirt also creates a mess that has to constantly be mopped or vacuumed up, and who has time for that? Besides, stepping inside is a great excuse to kick off heavy or uncomfortable footwear and slip into comfy slippers instead. In countries such as Iran, Japan, and Sweden, it's rude to keep shoes on indoors. Taking them off is a simple step that shows you care.

No—people should be allowed to choose

Even if people remove their shoes, floors are going to get dirty. Dust blows in through open doors and windows, and pets pick up the same dirt—if not worse—on their paws and track it into the house. Plus, some guests may find it embarrassing to remove their footwear, especially if they're worried about revealing worn-out socks or stinky feet. They should be able to decide for themselves whether they want to take their shoes off. As for the health concerns, there's no need to be so worried. In fact, studies show that exposure to a small amount of dirt can boost the immune system and reduce allergies.

YES Three reasons why people should take off shoes indoors

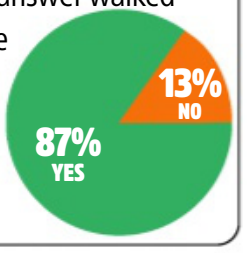
1. **Shoes worn outside bring dirt, germs, and even chemicals into a home. A person could step in dog poop and not realize it.**
2. **Wearing shoes indoors creates a mess. No one wants to have to constantly mop and vacuum their floors.**
3. **Slippers are much more comfortable and relaxing to wear than outdoor shoes.**

NO Three reasons why people should not take off shoes indoors

1. **Taking your shoes off is pointless. Floors get dirty anyway when a door or window is open or pets brings in dirt on their paws.**
2. **It's rude to tell a visitor what to do. People may be embarrassed if they have stinky feet or holes in their socks.**
3. **Exposure to dirt can be healthy because it boosts the immune system.**

LAST WEEK'S POLL

Last week, we asked whether cities should have car-free streets. One answer walked away with the win: 87% of you said yes, while 13% of you said no.



What do you think?

Now that you've read more about this issue, have a parent or guardian go with you to theweekjunior.com/polls so you can vote in our debate. Vote YES if you think people should take off shoes indoors or NO if you don't. We'll publish the results next week.

The goal of the big debate is to present two sides of an issue fairly in order to stimulate discussion and allow our readers to make up their minds. The views on this page do not reflect those of *The Week Junior*, and the page is not funded by third parties.

At the top of the world

Climber and filmmaker Jimmy Chin finds meaning in documenting adventure.

American alpine climber Jimmy Chin has scaled some of the world's most challenging mountains and skied some of its steepest hills. He has also reached great heights in the film industry as a documentarian.

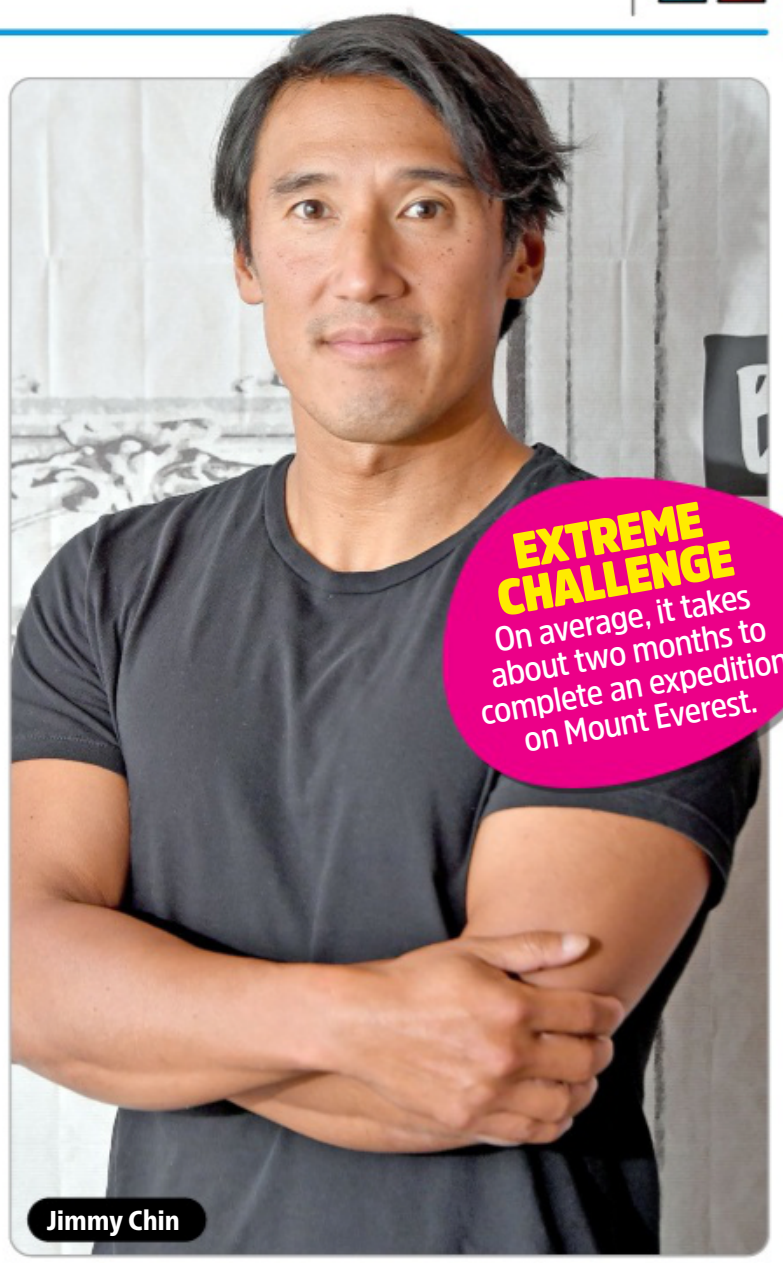
Chin, age 48, grew up in Mankato, Minnesota, with parents who were university librarians. After finishing college, he headed west, where "climbing really took hold of me," he told *The Week Junior*. Over the years he has climbed Mount Everest, the world's tallest mountain, several times and was one of the first Americans to ski down it.

Chin with his wife

During his adventures, Chin developed a love of photography and filmmaking. He has taken photos for National Geographic for years and has directed commercials for brands such as The North Face and Apple.

With his wife, Elizabeth Chai Vasarhelyi, he co-directed the 2018 documentary *Free Solo,* about climber Alex Honnold's quest to free-solo (climb with no equipment) the massive El Capitan cliff in Yosemite National Park in California. In 2019, it won the Oscar (top film award) for best documentary feature.

Chin's new documentary series, *Edge of the Unkown with Jimmy Chin,* premieres on Nat Geo on September 5, and all 10 episodes arrive on Disney+ on September 7. In the series, Chin profiles snowboarders, big wave surfers, and other extreme athletes. He focused on their mindsets during some of their most challenging moments. One thing Chin learned from the brave athletes: "You can't be afraid of failure, and they know how to turn failure into success," he told *The Wall Street Journal.*



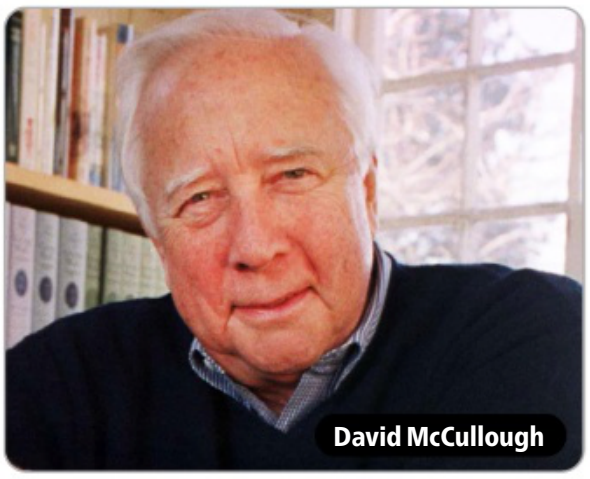
Jimmy Chin

EXTREME CHALLENGE
On average, it takes about two months to complete an expedition on Mount Everest.

A Marine milestone

On August 6, US Marine Corps Lieutenant Michael E. Langley received a promotion that made him the first Black four-star Marine Corps general in the corps' 246-year history. Langley, 60, has served in the Marines for 37 years. Now one of only three four-star generals in that service, he is in charge of the US Africa Command, which has headquarters in Germany and consists of about 6,000 troops. Langley has called his father, an Air Force veteran, his greatest mentor: "My daddy told me to aim high, so I aimed as high as I could."

Michael E. Langley



David McCullough

Farewell to a historian

David McCullough, who brought history to life as a historian and author, died on August 7 at age 89. Born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, he earned a degree in English literature from Yale University. In his career of more than 60 years, he won many awards for the books he wrote, including two Pulitzer Prizes for Presidential biographies *Truman* and *John Adams*. In addition, he was a renowned documentary narrator. He received the Presidential Medal of Freedom (the nation's highest civilian honor) in 2006. "I think of writing history as an art form," he once said of his life's work.

OVERHEARD

"Sometimes, the simple act of trying is all you can do."

Mikaela Shiffrin, American alpine racer, on mental health, the pressure to perform, and learning to put herself first. She is a three-time Olympic medalist and four-time World Cup champion.

GETTY IMAGES (4); KENNY HOLSTON/THE NEW YORK TIMES; ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES

Humpback whales can memorize melodies.

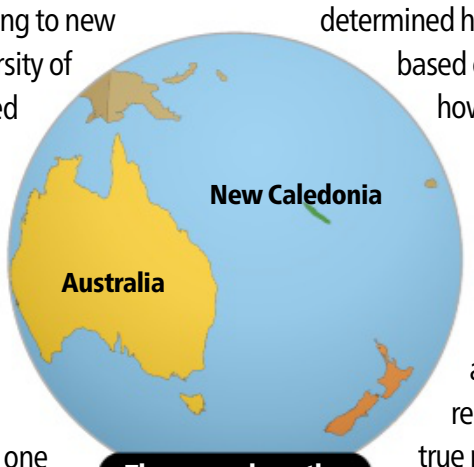
Whale songs album

Fifty years ago, the album *Songs of the Humpback Whale* was released. It was a recording of whale songs compiled by researchers. The album was an unexpected hit, selling more than 100,000 copies, and is credited with helping to inspire the "Save the Whales" movement.

The album

Whales learn songs from one another

Populations of humpback whales that live in different regions can learn long, complicated songs from one another, according to new research. Scientists at the University of Queensland, in Australia, focused on two populations of humpback whales, one by Australia's east coast and the other off New Caledonia—a group of islands in the Pacific Ocean about 900 miles away. These populations may share feeding grounds or come across one another while migrating.



The area where the whales were studied

Only male whales sing. Their songs are known to be made up of a wide variety of different sounds arranged into patterns and can last for hours. The researchers listened to samples of male humpback songs from 2009 to 2015. They determined how complicated the songs were based on the number of sounds and how long the patterns lasted.

The team found that the whales from New Caledonia were able to sing the same songs as the Australian whales "without simplifying or leaving anything out," said lead researcher Jenny Allen. This was true no matter how complex the songs were. The whales also sang a different song each year. "It means humpback whales can learn an entire song pattern from another population very quickly," Allen said.

It is not known for sure why male whales sing, but two possible reasons are to attract a mate or to warn other males to stay out of their territory. In addition to humpbacks, only a few other species of whales (blue, fin, bowhead, and minke whales) sing.

Humpback whale numbers have been severely affected by commercial hunting, which was banned in the 1980s. Today there are thought to be about 40,000 humpbacks swimming in Australia's waters, although conservationists warn that the species still faces a number of threats in the wild. Allen said she hopes the study's findings will aid efforts to save and protect humpback whales. "Having an in-depth understanding of a species is known to greatly improve…conservation," she said.

PLACE OF THE WEEK

Beavertail State Park, Rhode Island

Beavertail State Park is located on the island of Jamestown, Rhode Island. The Beavertail lighthouse, which was built in 1856, is one of the oldest in North America, and the Beavertail Aquarium is beside it. The park is a popular spot for bird-watching, and surf scooters, European starlings, and American robins have often been seen. Many species of bats also inhabit the park. Nearby is the Marsh Meadows Wildlife Preserve, where sparrows and willets breed and ospreys nest. Striped bass, bluefish, and starfish swim in the waters off the island's shores.

A starfish

ON THE MOVE
Pygmy possums use their tails like a fifth limb to climb and leap between trees.

These two species are surprise roommates.

Pygmy possums and lizard share home

When wildlife experts in Australia came upon a nest that is home to a family of pygmy possums, they found a surprise—a spiny-tailed gecko living with them.

Pygmy possums typically live in tree hollows, but their homes have been disappearing as a result of logging (cutting down trees for profit). To replicate the natural habitat of these tiny marsupials (mammals with a pouch), Bush Heritage Australia, an organization that works to protect the country's natural landscape and native species, has 103 nest boxes at its Monjebup Nature Reserve. Spiny-tailed geckos, however, usually live in shrubs.

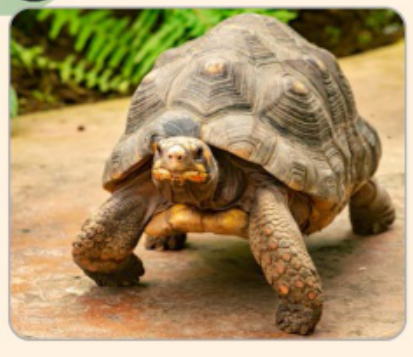
The gecko and the pygmy possum family shared a nest box that measured about 8 inches by 8 inches. The pygmy possums brought eucalyptus leaves inside the box to nest. The gecko, which eats spiders and insects, is not a threat to the possums. "The gecko will get some benefit from being in the warmth of those little mammals," said Conrad Hoskin, a gecko expert. "I suspect the presence of the gecko is neutral to the possum—a soft and harmless creature among them."

Animal of the week: Clouded leopard

Two clouded leopard cubs, a male and a female, were born at the Nashville Zoo in June. They are the first such animals born there since 2019. There are now 16 clouded leopards at the zoo, but they are at risk of disappearing from the wild.

- **LIFE SPAN:** Typically 12 to 15 years
- **HABITAT:** Southeast Asia, mainly in rainforests
- **SIZE:** Between 25 and 50 pounds
- **DIET:** Monkeys, squirrels, deer, and pigs
- **FUN FACT:** The clouded leopard is one of only two cats that can climb down trees headfirst.

Good week / Bad week



Turtles and tortoises

New research has found that many species of turtles and tortoises do not age or age very slowly, meaning they do not show signs of physical decline as they get older. Researchers think the animals' shells may help them avoid the effects of aging.

Asian elephants

Elephants in Asia are eating plastic products they find in trash thrown away by humans. The products contain chemicals that can harm the animals. The elephants are also spreading the plastic through their feces, putting more animals at risk.

Ask a zookeeper: "Which bird migrates the farthest?" Madeline, 9, Indiana

Marco Wendt
Wildlife ambassador,
San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance

The Arctic tern makes the longest migration of any animal on Earth. They migrate from the North Pole to the South Pole, a journey of about 24,000 miles! During the Arctic tern's 30-year life span, it can fly about 620,000 miles, about three times the distance from Earth to the Moon.

An Arctic tern

Do you have a question for a zookeeper? Send it to *hello@theweekjunior.com*. Find out more about the San Diego Zoo at sandiegozoowildlifealliance.org.

GETTY IMAGES (5); KELSEY LAMBERT; ON THE LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES (4); CRM RECORDS

The myth and magic

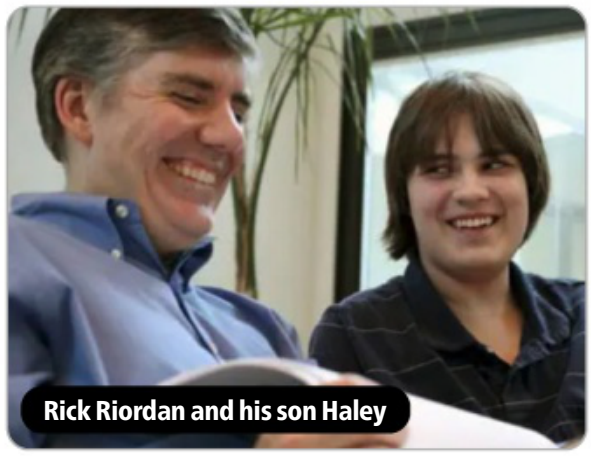
A universe of daring adventures started with a bedtime story.

In 2005, the world was introduced to Percy Jackson in the fantasy fiction novel *The Lightning Thief*. With a new TV adaptation being filmed now, it's a perfect time to explore a literary hero who is based on Greek mythology.

Who is Percy Jackson?

Perseus "Percy" Jackson is a 12-year-old boy who one day learns the shocking truth about who he is. Percy is a demigod (half god), the son of the Greek god Poseidon and a mortal (human) named Sally Jackson.

Percy enters a world of gods and goddesses, immortal beings with powers, and discovers he has special abilities too. He can make hurricanes, breathe underwater, and talk to horses. With his friends Annabeth and Grover, Percy goes on quests to fight monsters and save the world.


Rick Riordan and his son Haley

The origin of a demigod

Author Rick Riordan was a middle school English, history, and Greek mythology teacher. One day his son Haley asked Riordan to tell a bedtime story about gods and goddesses. Riordan invented Percy Jackson and based him on Haley, who, like Percy, has attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and dyslexia (a learning disability that affects the parts of the brain that control language and reading). Riordan's bedside tales led to the publication of *The Lightning Thief*, in which the sky god Zeus accuses Percy of stealing his master lightning bolt. Percy must trek across America, using his powers to find it and restore order.

FUN FACT
Percy Jackson's mother named him after Perseus, one of the greatest heroes in Greek mythology and a slayer of monsters.
Annabeth, Percy, and Grover in the poster for the second movie

Meet the Greek gods

In Greek mythology, the Olympians were the most important gods and goddesses. Here are four of those beings, thought to have special powers.

Zeus

Zeus, also known as Jupiter, was the king of the gods and ruled from Mount Olympus, the highest mountain in Greece. He was the god of law and order and of the sky, lightning, and thunder.

Hera

Zeus's wife, Hera, was the powerful queen of the Olympian gods. She was also the goddess of marriage and family. When angry, Hera transformed her enemies into animals and monsters.

ALAMY; © 2009 ©2010 © 2022 DISNEY ENTERPRISES, INC.; SHAMINDER DULAI; GETTY IMAGES (5)

# of a boy hero

BEST SELLERS
The Percy Jackson books have sold more than 180 million copies worldwide.

MAGICAL MOVIES
Director Chris Columbus directed the first two Harry Potter movies and the first Percy Jackson movie.

A Percy Jackson graphic novel

The universe expands

The Lightning Thief was the first book of five in the *Percy Jackson and the Olympians* series. Riordan then wrote two more five-book series, *The Heroes of Olympus* and *The Trials of Apollo*, featuring familiar characters and introducing new ones. The three series, as well as graphic novels and short stories, make up the Camp Half-Blood Chronicles (named after Percy's demigod training camp). In 2010, the first Percy movie, *Percy Jackson and the Olympians: The Lightning Thief*, was released, as was a video game with the same title. *Percy Jackson: Sea of Monsters,* a sequel to the first film, was released in 2013. A stage adaptation, *The Lightning Thief: The Percy Jackson Musical*, opened on Broadway in 2019.

The cast of the new TV series

What's next?

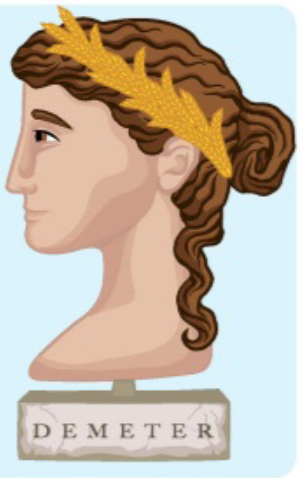
A new live-action television adaptation of Riordan's *Percy Jackson and the Olympians* started filming this year and is expected to begin streaming on Disney+ in early 2024. The first season will include eight episodes based on *The Lightning Thief*. The show will feature a brand-new cast, with Walker Scobell playing Percy Jackson, Leah Sava Jeffries as Annabeth, and Aryan Simhadri as Grover. Riordan, who is co-writing the pilot (first episode) and serving as a producer, said the show will be faithful to the characters and beloved books.

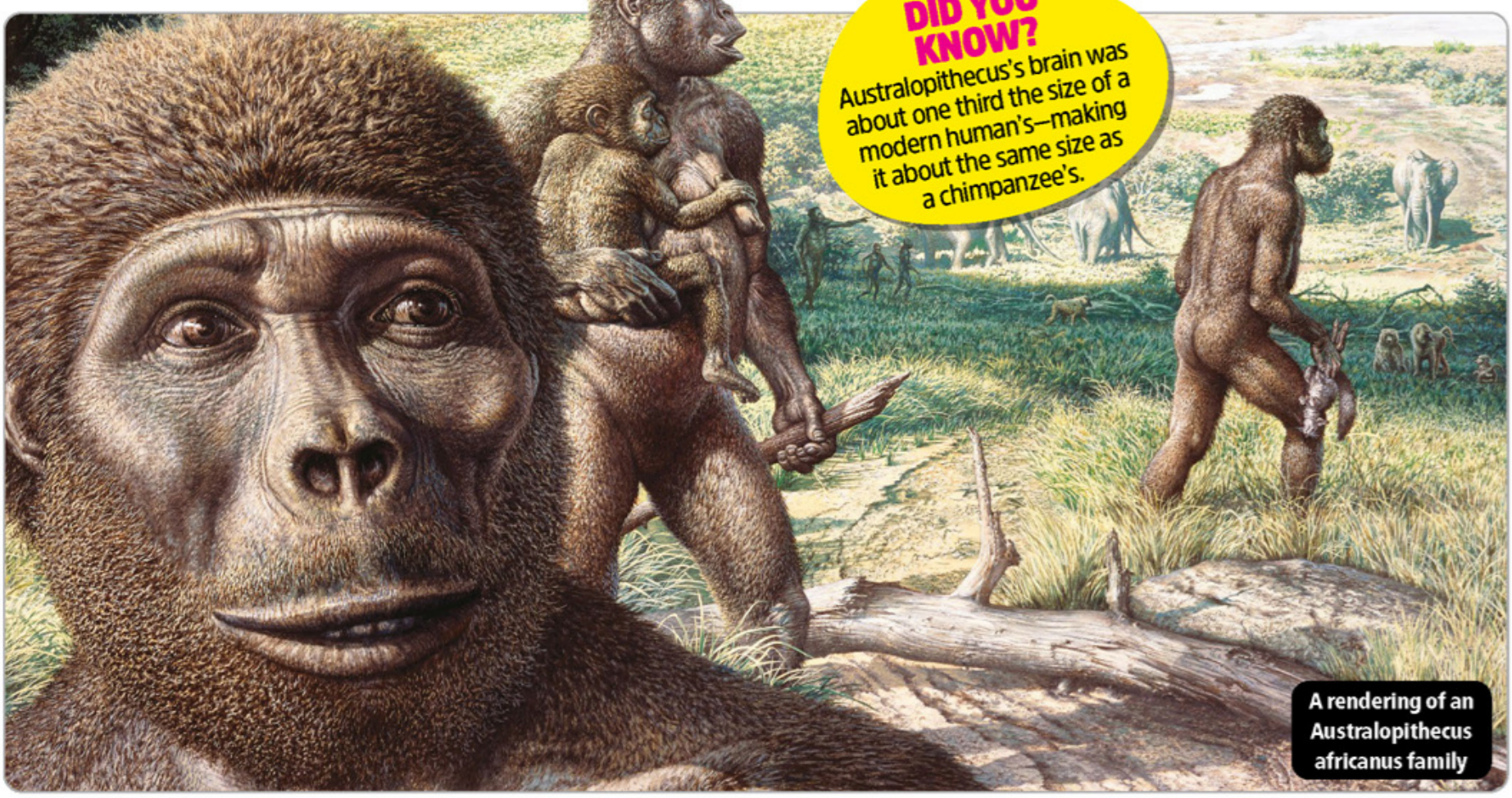
Poseidon

Percy Jackson's father, Poseidon, was the god of the sea. He was also Zeus's brother and the god of earthquakes and horses. Poseidon used a trident (spear with three prongs) to command the oceans.

Demeter

Demeter, a sister of the gods Zeus, Poseidon, and Hades, was the goddess of nature and the seasons. The people of ancient Greece worshipped Demeter in hopes of a good harvest from





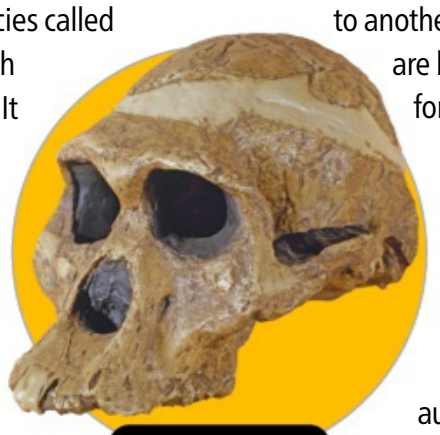
DID YOU KNOW?
Australopithecus's brain was about one third the size of a modern human's—making it about the same size as a chimpanzee's.

A rendering of an Australopithecus africanus family

Mystery of early humans solved

Scientists have discovered that the skull of a human ancestor found in South Africa is a million years older than previously thought. The discovery solves a puzzle about modern humans and changes what we know of human history.

The famous skull, which scientists have named "Mrs. Ples," is from a species called Australopithecus africanus, which was an ape-like human relative. It was found near Johannesburg, South Africa, in 1947 and, based on evidence from its surroundings, was thought to be between 2.1 and 2.6 million years old.



A reproduction of Mrs. Ples

This puzzled scientists because Mrs. Ples looked like a possible early ancestor of early humans. But if she had lived when they thought she did, she would have been born after the first true humans had already evolved. Instead, scientists decided that Australopithecus afarensis, a similar species from East Africa that lived about 3.5 million years ago, was our most likely ancestor, not Mrs. Ples.

To determine a more accurate age for Mrs. Ples, a team led by Darryl Granger of Purdue University, in Indiana, used a new method to date the sandy rocks where the skull was found. They measured the amount of certain chemicals in the rocks, which form at a steady rate when they are exposed to cosmic rays (particles from space whose influence can change one chemical to another) on Earth's surface. Once rocks are buried, these chemicals stop forming and slowly disappear. The amount that remains reveals how much time has passed since the rocks (or bones) were on the surface.

The new study shows that Mrs. Ples and other australopithecine fossils nearby are actually between 3.4 and 3.7 million years old. This means they lived at the same time as their East African relatives—so either group could have given rise to modern humans. However, team member Laurent Bruxelles pointed out that over millions of years, at only 2,500 miles apart, these groups had plenty of time to travel and to breed with each other. In other words, the groups could have met and had children together, both thereby becoming a part of the history of modern humans.

Footprints of the first humans

Some of the footprints

Australopithecines (from the Latin words for "southern apes") were a group of human relatives that lived in various parts of Africa beginning about 4.4 million years ago. The ancestors of the first real humans were among them. Australopithecines were about 5 feet tall and walked upright.

In the 1970s, researchers in Tanzania found a trail of footprints left by three australopithecines who walked across the land about 3.6 million years ago. The length of the toes and the alignment of the big toe with the rest of the foot indicated that the primate that left these footprints was more similar to humans than to apes. Fossils of the species were also found nearby, which confirmed the findings.

Rare "zombie star" survives explosion

A star in a distant galaxy survived the explosion that should have killed it, according to new research. In 2012, astronomers (scientists who study stars and space) spotted the star turning into a "Type 1a" supernova—an enormous explosion that marks the end for many stars. Scientists have a good idea of how these outbursts happen, so it's possible to predict exactly how bright they will get.

The galaxy where the star exploded

In this case, however, something strange happened. The eruption fell short of expectations, becoming a "failed" supernova. After the debris cleared, the researchers saw not only that the star was still there but that it was shining more brightly than before.

"Nature tried to strike this star down, but it came back more powerful than we could have imagined," explained Andy Howell from the University of California at Santa Barbara, who worked on the study.

Astronomers have seen failed supernovas before, but they've never seen a surviving star behave like this. The researchers believe the explosion may not have been powerful enough to completely blast away the star's outer layers of gas. Instead, some of the gas may have fallen back onto the star's core and heated up, creating a "zombie star" that shines more brightly. If that is correct, the star should pull the gas back into itself and gradually decrease in brightness.

An illustration of a supernova

WOW!
A supernova can release as much energy in a few weeks as the Sun will during the entire 10 billion years it's expected to exist.

Darkling beetle superworms

Superworms eat plastic, reduce waste

Superworms could help recycle plastic, according to a new study. The larvae (young) of the Zophobas morio, or darkling beetle, are nicknamed "superworms" for their large size—and big appetite.

Scientists in Australia fed a packing material called polystyrene (also known as Styrofoam) to a group of superworms. The worms that ate it were less healthy than the worms fed a normal diet, but about two thirds of them still grew up into adult beetles.

Researchers found that enzymes (chemicals) and bacteria in the worms' guts broke down the plastic into digestible materials. "Superworms are like mini recycling plants, shredding the polystyrene with their mouths and then feeding it to the bacteria in their gut," said co-author Chris Rinke.

The researchers will study how the worms break down the plastic so the process can be re-created. They hope this could help keep polystyrene waste out of landfills and oceans worldwide.

AMAZING INVENTION

Technology for the visually impaired

The harness

A Swiss company designed a wearable harness to help people who are visually impaired move around their environment. The harness, called Biped, is worn over the shoulders and connects to wireless headphones.

On the front of Biped, 3D cameras capture a wide view of the street ahead. Software using artificial intelligence (AI, a program that imitates human learning) analyzes what the cameras see and determines whether anything is an obstacle. If so, it sends a warning through the headphones. Biped can also be used as a GPS system.

SCIENCE PHOTO LIBRARY: HUBBLE LEGACY ARCHIVE/ESA/NASA; GETTY IMAGES; BIPED; ON LEFT PAGE: SCIENCE PHOTO LIBRARY (2); GETTY IMAGES

Photos of the week

Colorful tradition
A member of an Aztec group participates in an anniversary celebration in Mexico.

Look up!
A hotel ceiling in Las Vegas dazzles with glass jellyfish created by artist Dale Chihuly.

GETTY IMAGES (5); THOMAS VIJAYAN/HIPA/SWNS

Photos of the week

Good enough to eat
A girl walks through rows of vegetables in Turkey.

Having a ball
An artist performs at a creative festival in Scotland.

Hanging out
An orangutan perches on a tree in Indonesia.

Seeing stripes
Wheat is harvested in the Netherlands, as viewed from above.

FIRST CHAMPS
In 1974, a team from Tampa, Florida, won the first Little League Softball World Series.

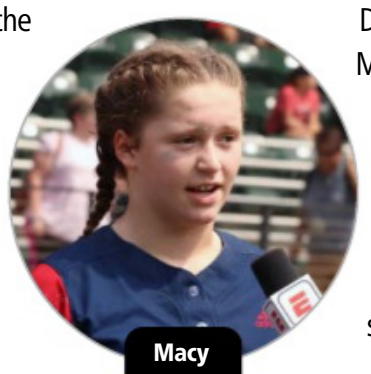
The Texas team

Facts about softballs

Softballs range from 10 inches to 16 inches around. The LLSWS uses a 12-inch version. The core of the ball is usually made of cork and rubber. Balls used in competitive leagues are covered in bright yellow material, while recreational leagues use white ones.

Texas wins Little League Softball World Series

From August 9 through August 15, girls from the US and other countries gathered in Greenville, North Carolina, to compete in the Little League Softball World Series (LLSWS), the largest youth softball tournament in the world. In the championship game on August 15, the Midway Little League All-Stars from Texas beat Delmar Little League from Maryland, 5–4, in a thrilling extra-inning contest.


Macy Rickards

This year, the LLSWS featured 12 teams, two more than last year. They qualified by winning local and regional games. Eight teams were from the US and represented different parts of the country. Texas was the Southwest team, and Maryland represented the Mid-Atlantic. There were also teams from the Philippines, Canada, Italy, and Puerto Rico who were winners in international regions. All the players ranged in age from 10 to 12, but the Texas team was the youngest.

During the tournament, Texas and Maryland became known for their strong pitching. Before the championship game, starting pitchers Zaneria Hughes (Texas) and Macy Rickards (Maryland) had only given up a combined seven runs in this year's LLSWS.

Maryland opened the scoring in the bottom of the first inning when Rickards hit a single to bat in a run. The team added to their lead in the second inning when Ella Twiley brought home two of her teammates with a double, making the score 3–0. Texas rallied back and scored four runs in the top of the fourth. Maryland tied things up in the fifth and, after a scoreless sixth, the game went into extra innings.

Texas scored in the top of the seventh on a sacrifice fly by Hughes. She was then tasked with holding the lead for her team in the bottom half of the inning. Maryland got runners to first and second base but were unable to drive them home, giving Texas the win. It was the Midway Little League All-Stars' 12th LLSWS title.

Rickards struck out 11 batters in the game and 57 in the tournament. Hughes struck out 7 in the championship and 52 overall. "When we started, I knew there was something special with our team and that we're going to make it the whole way," Hughes said after the game.

THIS WEEK'S WINNERS...

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

The WNBA's regular season came to an end on August 14. The Las Vegas Aces claimed the number one overall seed in the playoffs, with a 26–10 record under first-year head coach Becky Hammon. Defending champions the Chicago Sky earned the number two seed. Breanna Stewart of the Seattle Storm finished as the league's leading scorer, with an average of nearly 22 points a game.

Coco Gauff

TENNIS

American Coco Gauff, age 18, is now the world's top-ranked women's doubles player after winning the Canadian Open with American Jessica Pegula on August 14.

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

On August 9, Shohei Ohtani of the Los Angeles Angels became the second player in MLB history to hit at least 10 home runs and have 10 wins as a pitcher in the same season. Babe Ruth was the first.

DID YOU KNOW?
The first organized soccer club in the US was formed in 1862.

Major League Soccer all-stars

MLS beats Liga MX in all-star match

The Major League Soccer (MLS) All-Star Game was played on August 10 in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Unlike other leagues' all-star games that feature two teams of their own top players, the MLS match was against all-stars from Mexico's Liga MX league. MLS won, 2–1.

The first MLS All-Star Game took place in 1996. Originally, the competition was between players from the league's two conferences, but after 2004, the format changed to feature an international opponent. Starting in 2021, the matchup was changed again to focus on the soccer rivalry between the US and Mexico.

About half of the MLS all-stars were voted on by fans, players, and soccer reporters, and the rest were chosen by coaches and the commissioner. The team scored two minutes into the match, after Diego Palacios of the Los Angeles Football Club (LAFC) fired a pass across the field, and Carlos Vela, also of the LAFC, used his head to guide the ball into the net.

Their next goal came in the second half with less than 20 minutes left to play. After Carles Gil of the New England Revolution was fouled inside the penalty box, Raul Ruidiaz of the Seattle Sounders took a penalty kick. He slotted the ball into the bottom right corner past Liga goalkeeper Camilo Vargas, who usually plays for Atlas. Liga's only goal came with just under 10 minutes left to play, when Kevin Álvarez of Pachuca scored off an incredible strike from 20 yards away.

MLS goalkeeper Dayne St. Clair, who plays for Minnesota United FC, was named the match's Most Valuable Player (MVP).

COACH OF THE WEEK

Coach's Name: **Anne Marquand**

Team: **Turtle Rock Tidal Waves (swimming)**

"Coach Marquand is the best coach I could hope for. This year, I joined our community swim team. When I first showed up, I was so far behind the other swimmers and very overwhelmed. She believed in me and works with me every morning to help me catch up. She has patience and faith in me, and because of this, I have faith in myself. She motivates me to be the best swimmer, and I love swimming because of her." Brianna, 11, California

To nominate a Coach of the Week, send your coach's name, photo, sport, and team to *hello@theweekjunior.com.* Include your name, age, state, and a few reasons why your coach is great.

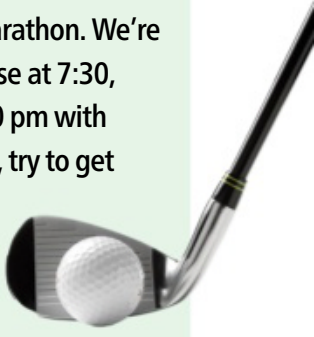
SPOTLIGHT ON...

Michael Childress

AGE: 23 SPORT: GOLF
TEAM: UNIVERSITY OF RICHMOND

Teeing off I'm from an athletic and competitive family. Since I was around age 3, we've always gone to the driving range to hit balls or chip and putt. When I was about 10 or 12, I realized I really enjoyed it, so I tried to get better. In eighth grade, I won the middle school state championship.

Long days Our tournaments are normally on Mondays and Tuesdays. We practice on Sunday, and then Monday is a marathon. We're up at around 5:30 am, at the course at 7:30, and play 36 holes until about 6:30 pm with no real breaks. After that, you eat, try to get schoolwork done, then sleep. We get up again at 5:30 the next day to finish competing.



Staying positive Golf is tough because you can play in a 100-person event and beat 90 people but it still doesn't come up as a win. Winning is harder than it looks, and when you play at the collegiate level, it's always on your mind. It's important to have other things in your life besides golf to help keep it in perspective. I picked up playing guitar, which has been awesome. I'm also a big family guy. I love being home. I love my dogs. A dog has no clue whether I shoot 62 or 82.

Room to grow My favorite thing about golf is that you're never going to have a perfect day or beat the game. I love that there's always going to be something I can improve.

Best advice Stay patient. It's easy to see other people and compare yourself to them. Understand that you're on your own path, and you're going to mature at a different rate than somebody else.

GETTY IMAGES (2); UNIVERSITY OF RICHMOND ATHLETICS; ON LEFT PAGE: LLSBWORLDSERIES; LLSBWORLDSERIES; GETTY IMAGES (2)

Designs for the Where the Wild Things Are **opera and** The Nutcracker **costumes**

A special Sendak exhibit

A Boston museum is exhibiting set and costume designs by famous children's book author and illustrator Maurice Sendak.

People may think of Maurice Sendak as the author and illustrator of *Where the Wild Things Are*, but an exhibition at the Isabella Stewart Gardner museum in Boston, Massachusetts, shows a different side to his work. *Drawing the Curtain: Maurice Sendak's Designs for Opera and Ballet* features his costume and set designs for an operatic version of *Where the Wild Things Are,* a version of *The Nutcracker* that later became a film, and more.

WOW! Maurice Sendak illustrated more than 150 books during his lifetime.

The Gardner holds the private art collection of Isabella Stewart Gardner, who died in1924. Diana Seave Greenwald, the collection's assistant curator (person who selects art), told *The Week Junior* that one reason the museum wanted to host the show is because Gardner and Sendak were both major fans of the opera *The Magic Flute* by 18th-century composer Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. "It was one of the first operas Sendak designed," she said.

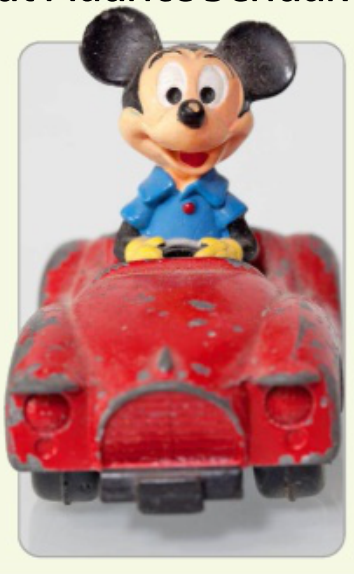
Greenwald said that although people think of opera as a serious art form, Sendak brought "a real playfulness to the stage." There are more than 100 items in the exhibit, including sketches, dioramas, storyboards, and costumes. Videos of the productions allow visitors to see them come to life. In addition to helping Sendak fans discover something new about him, Greenwald said she hopes the show inspires people to "learn about an art form that involves music and is multi-sensory."

Some of the pieces in the exhibition can be seen at tinyurl.com/TWJUS-Sendak.

3 facts about Maurice Sendak

Favorite character

As a child, he fell in love with Mickey Mouse and dreamed of becoming an animator. As an adult, he kept Mickey Mouse memorabilia in his home.



Creative influence

One of Sendak's favorite artists was the British painter, poet, and printmaker William Blake, who lived from 1757 to 1827. Sendak referred to him as "my teacher in all things."

A Blake painting

Major awards

Sendak received numerous awards for his work as a children's book author. In 1996, President Bill Clinton presented him with the National Medal of Arts, the most prestigious award for an artist.

Moon Girl and Devil Dinosaur

News on movie and TV releases

Over the past few weeks, there have been big announcements about superhero, science-fiction, and action-adventure films and TV shows.

Although DC Comics fans recently heard news that a planned *Batgirl* filmed will not be released, Marvel fans have a lot headed their way. At Comic-Con in late July, Marvel Studios debuted a teaser for *Wakanda Forever*, the sequel to *Black Panther*. Chadwick Boseman, who played King T'Challa/Black Panther in the first film, died in 2020, but studio president Kevin Feige said the new film "not only brings the same level of joy and inspiration that the first *Blank Panther* film did, but it also is a tribute to what Chad brought to the world."

Marvel also revealed there will be a new saga featuring the villain Kang the Conqueror and provided a peek at the 2023 animated series *Moon Girl and Devil Dinosaur,* based on a popular comic book series. It centers on a 13-year-old super genius who protects New York City with a T. rex.

Comic-Con fans also got a first look at the HBO Max and Cartoon Network animated series *Gremlins: Secrets of Mogwai*. It is a prequel to the hit 1984 live-action film *Gremlins,* about cuddly creatures that turn destructive. Meanwhile, Disney debuted a trailer for the new action series *National Treasure: Edge of History*, a spin-off of the history-packed action-adventure franchise.

MOVIE NIGHT

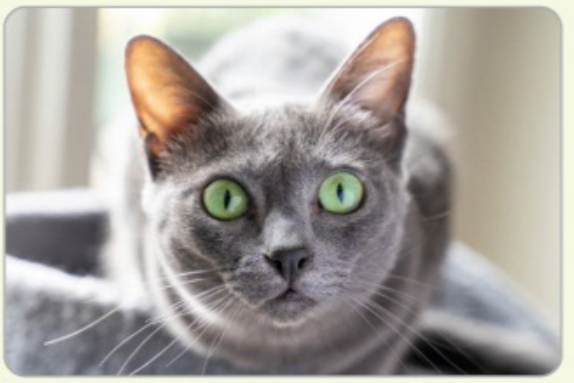
If you're looking for a film to watch with family or friends, consider this pick of the week.

The Emperor's New Groove (2000) PG

Disney+

This comedy is set in an ancient South American empire ruled by arrogant Kuzco. He has recently fired his adviser, Yzma, and is planning to build a new summer home. He doesn't care that it requires demolishing a village. Yzma wants revenge and power, so she plots to poison Kuzco, but her assistant, Kronk, mixes up a batch that turns him into a llama. When Kuzco wanders off from his castle, he ends up in the village he was going to destroy. There, he asks the kind chief, a peasant named Pacha, to help him get home and reverse the effect of the poison. Pacha agrees, but only if Kuzco promises to leave his village alone. Meanwhile, Yzma and Kronk set out to get rid of Kuzco for good. Will he be turned back into human form before they find him?

THIS WEEK'S WATCH LIST



Inside the Mind of a Cat

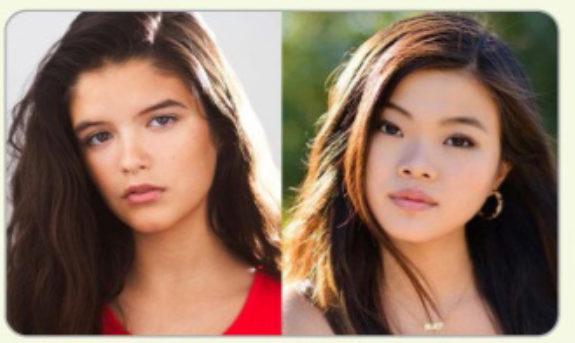
(Netflix)

Cat experts and scientists discuss facts about the animals in this new documentary. There's plenty to learn, as they examine topics such as the frequencies of meows, the magic of their whiskers, and what cats' behavioral patterns say about decision-making.

Dragons: The Nine Realms

(Hulu) (Peacock)

The third season of this *How to Train Your Dragon* spin-off series is out now. The show follows teens who ride and protect dragons in a world where everyone thinks the creatures are myths. In this chapter, they discover a new world, encounter mysterious creatures, and face new enemies.



Surfside Girls

(Apple TV+)

Based on the best-selling graphic novel series of the same name, this new series follows best friends Sam and Jade. After a pirate ghost tells them about a cursed treasure buried beneath their town, their focus shifts from nonstop surfing to a treasure hunting adventure.

MARVEL: DISNEY: GETTY IMAGES; DREAMWORKS; APPLE TV; ON LEFT PAGE: MAURICE SENDAK FOUNDATION, THE MORGAN LIBRARY & MUSEUM, BEQUEST OF MAURICE SENDAK, 2013, 2013.103:52. PHOTOGRAPHY BY JANNY CHIU (3); GETTY IMAGES; ALAMY (2)

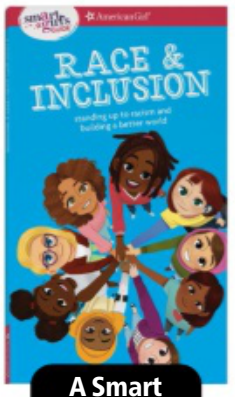
A drawing of the hosts of the Smart Girl's Podcast

Smart Girl's Podcast launches

A popular series of advice books has inspired a new podcast. The Smart Girl's Podcast, based on American Girl's *Smart Girl's Guides,* just launched on iHeartRadio, Apple Podcasts, Spotify, and other platforms.

Like the books, each episode will be filled with wisdom, facts, and short quizzes meant to help listeners learn how to handle different challenges. The hosts are 16-year-old actress Shay Rudolf (*The Baby-Sitters Club*) and author Jess Weiner. Weiner told *The Week Junior* that the podcast is a fun and safe space filled with "solid, important advice."

Each show begins with the hosts sharing their own experiences about the episode's topic. The first season of the podcast will cover some of the book series' most popular subjects. Listeners will hear conversations about friendship, race and inclusion, peer pressure, and more. Weiner is especially excited about an episode devoted to surviving embarrassing moments. "It's about how you bounce back," she said. She is also looking forward to a show about understanding and liking yourself. The hosts will interview guests including actors, athletes, and health experts.



A Smart Girl's Guide

To add to the discussions, Rudolf has asked her social media followers to send questions for the show. "In every episode, we'll have questions from kids all over the world," Weiner said. That will help listeners feel connected to people going through similar situations. Overall, a big goal of the show is for kids to learn about themselves, she added, "and not feel like it's homework."

WEBSITE OF THE WEEK

ESSEX BADGERCAM

tinyurl.com/TWJUS-Badgercam

The Essex Wildlife Trust, a UK charity, has a livestream of a sett (badger's home) at the Fingringhoe Wick nature reserve. The best time to check for a badger is when they go look for food just before sunset. (The location is five hours ahead of the Eastern time zone in the US.)

GAME OF THE WEEK

GARDEN STORY

Gardenstorygame.com

This Nintendo Switch role-playing game is now on Xbox consoles and PCs. The hero is a young purple grape named Concord who is on a mission to rebuild its community while defending it from the dangerous Rot. You'll go gardening, meet townsfolk, and even explore a few dungeons.

VIDEO OF THE WEEK

HOW SCIENTISTS STUDY WIND ON MARS

tinyurl.com/TWJUS-MarsWind

In this video, you'll find out how scientists from the Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter project at NASA (the US space agency) use images sent back to Earth not only to understand the red planet's climate but also to protect their spacecraft.

AMERICAN GIRL PODCAST NETWORK (2); ROSE CITY GAMES; FINGRINGHOE WICK/ESSEX WILDLIFE TRUST; NASA

BOOK OF THE WEEK

Fenris & Mott

By Greg van Eekhout
(HarperCollins)

When Mott is filming a video about root beer outside her apartment, she hears a sound coming from a recycling bin and finds an abandoned white puppy. She'd love to keep him, but her apartment doesn't allow dogs. Mott takes him to a shelter and learns he's a wolf! She agrees to care for the wolf until someone from an animal rescue organization can pick him up. The wolf runs away, and Mott chases him and meets a mysterious man. The man tells Mott that the wolf is actually named Fenris and there's a prophecy that Fenris will destroy the world and eat the moon. Later, she meets Thrudi, Fenris's guard, who confirms what the man told her. Now it's up to Mott and Thrudi to keep the world safe from Fenris—and Fenris safe from the world. Filled with suspense and twists, this book is the perfect blend of animals, friendship, and mythology.

WIN A BOOK!

We're giving away five copies of *Fenris & Mott*.

For a chance to win, send your name and address to *contests@theweekjunior.com* with *Fenris & Mott* in the subject line. Enter by midnight on September 9. See theweekjunior.com/terms for complete rules.

ASK THE AUTHOR

Greg van Eekhout

We spoke to the author of *Fenris & Mott*.

Did you have pets when you were growing up?
We had chickens, and I was terrified of the roosters. Going into my backyard was a dangerous adventure. Now I have two dogs.

Have you ever been the new kid like Mott?
I changed schools between first and second grade, and I remember not knowing who to talk to. But the secret is that I always feel like the new kid, even in places where I've been for a long time.

What power from mythology would you most want to have?
The power to bring thunder. I could do it for entertainment value or if a party gets boring.

What writing advice do you follow?
Don't worry what the story is going to be like while you're writing it.

Dragon or unicorn?
Dragon, and I'm going with the dragons that can fly and breathe fire. There's really no contest between them.

4 new books that take place at school

These stories focus on school life, from friendship drama to sports tryouts.

Flipping Forward Twisting Backward

By Alma Fullerton
(Peachtree)

Claire is a fifth grader who excels at gymnastics. But she's hiding a big secret: She can't read. How long will she be able to cover it up? Written in verse, this illustrated story shows the power of advocating for yourself. *Ages 8–12*

Invisible

By Christina Diaz Gonzalez, illustrated by Gabriela Epstein
(Graphix)

Five students, from different backgrounds with different personalities, are all assigned to complete their school's community service hours together. They decide to fight for change and help a family in need. Written in English and Spanish (with translations in both languages), the story is told in a series of flashbacks. *Ages 8–12*

Golden Ticket

By Kate Egan
(Feiwel & Friends)

Ash takes advanced classes at school, and she is struggling to keep up with the work. She hesitates to ask for help because she's afraid everyone will think she isn't smart. When an opportunity to cheat comes along, she's tempted. This book will make you think about what it means to be considered a gifted student. *Ages 8–12*

The Tryout

By Christina Soontornvat, illustrated by Joanna Cacao
(Graphix)

In this book, based on the author's life, Christina tries out for the cheer team. Her feelings are hurt when her best friend pairs with another girl, and being one of the few Asian Americans in her school makes her nervous. Will she make the team? *Ages 8–12*

READER RECOMMENDS

The School for Good and Evil series *By Soman Chainani*

"Sophie is the perfect image of a princess. Her friend Agatha is quite the opposite, regarded as a witch in their village. In the first book, they are both swept away to the School for Good and Evil, where heroes and villains are trained to be in storybooks. There is magic and mystery, so read the whole series for epic plot twists and conclusions. This is one of my favorite series ever!" Avery, 11, Arizona

Do you have a book to recommend? Send your review to *hello@theweekjunior.com*.

BOOKS: COURTESY THE PUBLISHERS; AUTHOR: COURTESY GREG VAN EEKHOUT; GETTY IMAGES

TIME FOR LUNCH
The average lunch period for US middle and high school students is 30 minutes.

Get set for returning to school

Prepare yourself for the year ahead with these simple steps.

Depending on where you live, you may be heading back to school soon or have already started. It's normal to feel both excited for a new academic year and sad that the summer break is ending. You may also feel a little nervous about having new classrooms and teachers to meet. If so, you're not alone! Here are some ways to prepare for the year ahead.

Focus on the positive

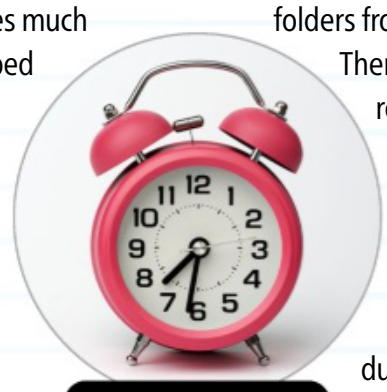
There are many great aspects to going back to school. You may get to see friends more frequently, for example. If you didn't see your classmates much this summer, now you will. If you developed a new interest in anime or chess over the summer, you could find out whether there is a club you could join at school. If not, perhaps you could start one. Maybe you want to try out for the school musical or compete in an after-school sport. Try making a list of the ideas you come up with in a notebook so you can review them and feel inspired by them.

Get plenty of sleep

Most kids need between 9 and 12 hours of sleep a night to feel energized and rested the next day. If you were able to sleep in on summer mornings, you may need to adjust your sleep schedule for school. Ask a parent what time you will need to leave for school each day. Then think about what you have to do in the morning before leaving home, such as getting dressed and eating breakfast. Once you know what time you need to wake up each day, you can count backward to decide what time you need to go to bed each night.

Gather supplies

If you receive your school supplies list in advance, start looking around your house for items you may already have and don't need to buy. Ask a parent if unused school supplies are stored somewhere at home. Check your desk or room for pencils, pens, sticky notes, and folders from last year that you could use again. Then put these items in your backpack so it's ready for your first day. Tell a parent about any items you still need to get and select a day that you can shop for them. Print out your class schedule and get familiar with it. Place it in your backpack so you'll be able to refer to it during the first weeks of school.



Get plenty of sleep.

Savor summer moments

Fall doesn't officially begin until September 22, so even though school may have already begun, you can still enjoy summer activities. Talk to your family about activities you'd like to do one more time. This could be a trip to the local pool, getting ice cream, or having a sleepover. If you have a favorite summer meal, like grilled foods or corn on the cob, ask a parent if you could have those for dinner one night to celebrate the start of school.

4 tricky situations to be aware of

Make back to school smoother by planning out how you want to handle common problems.

Lockers can be tough to use. If you have a locker this year, you may need a few days to learn how to open it. Some schools allow students to come in to practice before school officially opens. If you have trouble opening your locker between classes, head to class and explain the situation. Your teacher will know how to help.

The hallways can be confusing. If you can't find your classroom or aren't sure of the quickest route to the cafeteria or playground, speak up! Remember that you don't have to figure everything out yourself. Ask a teacher for help.

Everything may feel new. Even if you're not new to your school, you might find yourself in a class or activity where you don't know many other students. This can feel stressful, but it's also a great way to make new friends.

You might be tired. Even with a good night's sleep, new situations like the first week of school can be draining. That's common! Try to have some relaxing evenings at home so you can recharge and get used to the new schedule.

Decorate notebooks with tape

DID YOU KNOW?
Washi tape, a crafting material that originated in Japan, is made of rice paper.

What you need

- Washi tape in assorted colors and sizes
- Solid-colored notebooks or journals
- Scissors
- Black permanent marker (optional)

Instructions

1. To make stripes: Cut pieces of tape that are a little longer than the notebook. Stick them to the front, folding the extra over the cover.

2. To make a burger: Cut a piece of yellow tape that's a few inches long to make the top of the bun. Place it on your notebook. Next, add slightly smaller strips of Washi tape for other items on your burger, like pickles, lettuce, tomato, and meat. Finish with more yellow tape for the bottom bun. Snip tiny rectangles to make sesame seeds for the top bun. Spell out your name in tape letters too.

3. To make flowers: For tulips, overlap short pieces of tape to form V shapes. Make daisies by criss-crossing 3 or 4 pieces of tape. Add long strips of green tape for stems and diamond-shaped green pieces for leaves.

4. To make a dog design: Place one long strip of tape on the notebook for the animal's body. Add 2 thinner pieces, overlapping at an angle, to make the snout. Add a small square on top for the head. Cut thin pieces of tape to make the tail and legs, and a rectangle with one slanted edge for the ear. Cut small black squares for the nose and eye, or use a marker to draw on those small details.

WARNING!
Ask an adult's permission before using the oven.

Bake breakfast frittatas

Ingredients

- Cooking spray
- 4 slices bacon, chopped
- ½ cup shredded cheddar cheese
- 10 eggs
- 6 tablespoons heavy cream
- ¼ teaspoon black pepper
- ½ teaspoon kosher salt
- 1 tablespoon chopped parsley

Instructions

1. Heat the oven to 375° F. While it preheats, coat 10 wells of a muffin tin with cooking spray.

2. Heat a skillet over medium heat. Add the bacon and cook until crisp, about 4 minutes. Drain on a paper-towel-lined plate, then toss in a small bowl with the cheese.

3. In a bowl, whisk together the eggs, heavy cream, pepper, and salt.

4. Evenly distribute half of the bacon and cheese mixture into the 10 muffin wells. Add the egg mixture to the wells, filling each about two-thirds full. Sprinkle the remaining bacon mixture and parsley on top.

5. Bake the frittatas until they are set in the center, about 15 minutes. Let cool slightly before removing from the pan. Serves 5, with 2 frittatas per person.

JODI LEVINE FOR SUPERMAKEIT; JOY HOWARD; ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES

Word ladder

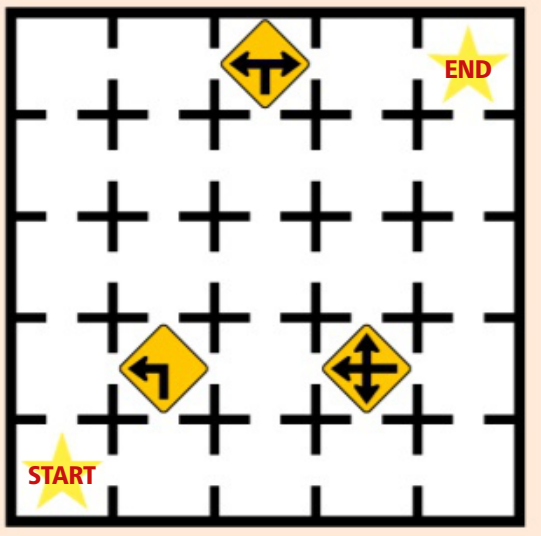
To change the word HEAT into the word WAVE, use each clue to fill in a word that is only one letter different from the word before it. If you get stuck, try solving from the bottom up.

	H E A T
It's protected by a helmet ▶	
Large number of sheep or cattle ▶	
Not easy…or not soft ▶	
"There's no ___ in asking" ▶	
How you might feel during a heat wave ▶	
Breakfast for a bird ▶	
Was dressed in ▶	
Used a loom to make a rug ▶	
	W A V E

ANSWERS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 29.

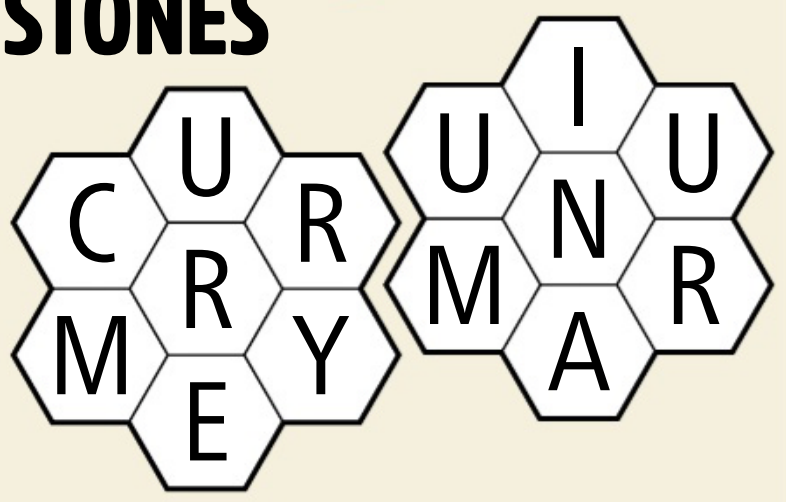
DETOURS

Draw one continuous path from START to END that goes through every single square without crossing itself. For squares with signs, you may only enter at the arrow's base, and you may only make a turn in the direction of an arrow shown.



STEPPING STONES

Each figure hides the name of a seven-letter chemical element. To find each one, start anywhere and move in an unbroken path through letters that share a border (no jumping!), using each letter once. (NEED A HINT? Check the bottom of the page.)



Crossmath

Fill each empty box with a number or a mathematical symbol (+, −, ×, or ÷) to complete the equations across and down. A symbol can be used more than once.

50				
		3	=	
5				−
=				2
		6	=	16
				7

Spot the difference

These two pictures of the US Capitol building appear to be the same, but take a closer look. There are actually five differences. Can you see them?

PUZZLES BY PUZZABILITY

stepping stones hint: The first element begins with M.

That's unbelievable!

It's a tasty position.

A very sweet job opportunity

Candy lovers in search of work need to look no further: A Canadian company named Candy Funhouse is hiring a Chief Candy Officer (CCO). The duties of the $78,000-a-year job include presiding over company meetings and serving as head candy tester—all from the comfort of the CCO's home. After tasting a candy, they can award it the official "CCO Stamp of Approval." Applicants must be at least 5 years old and live in North America. The company said, "All you need is a passion for candy, pop culture, and a sweet tooth!"

Tree lover's tournament

"Tree hugger" was once used to poke fun at environmental activists, but now the term has inspired a most creative competition. The first-ever Scottish Tree Hugging Championships were recently held near the town of Oban. Events included speed hugging (hugging as many trees as possible in one minute) and freestyle (inventive ways of hugging a tree). Alasdair Firth was named the winner. The World Tree Hugging Championships will take place in Finland on August 20.

Becoming one with the tree

Visitors get slimed.

The school of slime

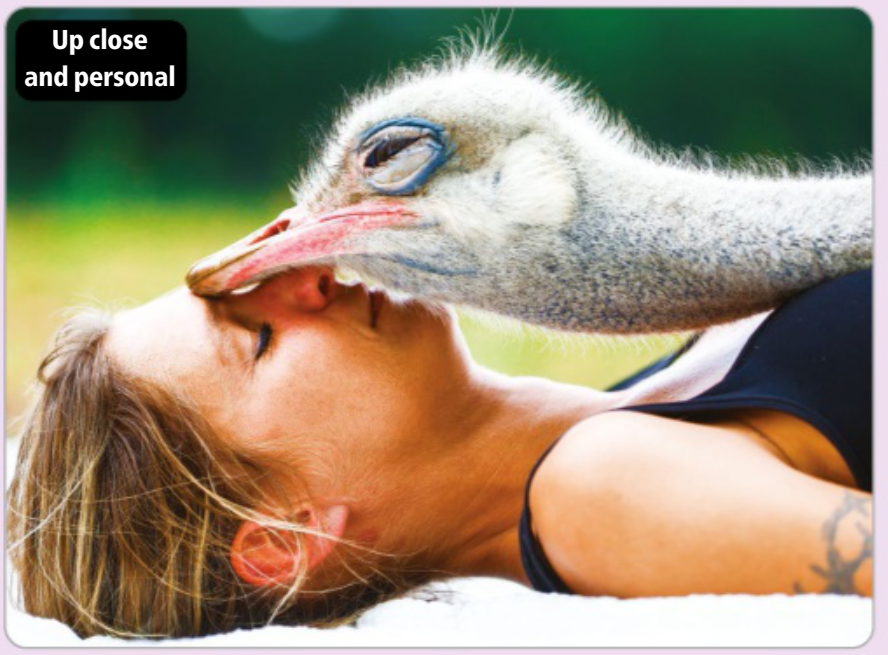
New York City's ooziest attraction is a space dedicated to all things slime. At the Sloomoo Institute, visitors can decorate a huge slime wall, jump into a slime lake, and explore a glowing slime cave. Sara Schiller and Karen Robinovitz set it up in 2019 after finding that playing with slime helped them through a tough time. They produce it in their slime kitchen, with ingredients like clay added to a glue base.

Real or fake?

Kitty, party of two?

Where felines can dine in style

A recent pop-up restaurant in New York City served a very exclusive clientele: cats. At Gatto Bianco ("white cat" in Italian), sponsored by the pet food company Purina, feline diners received a tasting menu inspired by Fancy Feast cat food flavors such as "beef ragú" and "wild salmon florentine." Owners could attend the meal but had to wait their turn as servers catered to the pampered pets. Is this story fake, or are you paw-sitive that it's real?*


Up close and personal

The ostrich whisperer of Belgium

Ostriches are the world's biggest living birds. They can run at speeds up to 45 miles per hour and deliver powerful kicks. None of this worries Wendy Adriaens, "the ostrich whisperer," as she is known to her 1.1 million TikTok followers. Adriaens began adopting ostrich chicks on her animal rescue farm in Belgium after she found out that they might be sent to meat farms. She posts photos and videos of herself cuddling with the huge birds, which she calls "gorgeous giants."

*Fake! The restaurant was for humans, not cats. Chef Amanda Hasser said that Gatto Bianco's dishes were designed to "help cat owners understand how their cats experience food—from flavor, to texture, to form."

REUTERS; SHUTTERSTOCK; PETER JOLLY NORTHPIX; PURINA (2). ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES (3)

Your turn

Editor's note

When this issue went to press on August 16, the new school year had begun for some of our readers. The rest were getting ready to return within a few weeks. We hope the next nine months will be fantastic for you, with amazing teachers, fun times with friends, and lots of reading and learning! I also hope our special back-to-school section on pages 24 and 25 will be helpful. We've got some great ideas for getting off to a strong start, plus tips for handling common tricky situations. If you use our craft instructions to decorate your notebooks or follow our recipe to make breakfast frittatas, I invite you to take a photo and send it to *hello@theweekjunior.com*. As you can see on this page and the next one, kids across the US love making things from our How To pages and we love sharing the photos we receive. From all of us at *The Week Junior*, have a wonderful year!

Andrea Barbalich
Editor-in-Chief

CHARITY OF THE WEEK

WaterStep

This organization works to ensure that people around the world have access to clean drinking water. Its projects include installing water purifying systems in communities that need them the most. The group is currently sending funds and assistance to areas in Kentucky that have been affected by the flooding that struck the state in July. Find out more at waterstep.org.

YOUR PHOTOS: A SUMMER OF SLUSHIES

"It was one of the hottest days of the summer where I live, so I made the strawberry slushie. It was incredible!"
Barrett, 11, Washington

"These slushies were amazing. My whole family loved them."
Benjamin, 11, New York

"We made the cool recipe for the strawberry slushie. It was delicious! *The Week Junior* is fun to read every week!"
Cruz, 13, and Nina, 11, Louisiana

"We loved the slushie from Issue 118! Yummy!"
Isaac, 11, Corinne, 8, and Julia, 5, Ohio

THE WEEK Junior IT'S YOUR TURN Email your news, views, and photos to *hello@theweekjunior.com*.

Your turn

In Issue 118, we published a recipe for a strawberry slushie. We received so many amazing photos and comments from readers who told us how much they enjoyed making it—and drinking it! Thank you to everyone who wrote to us. Here is a selection of submissions!

"The slushie was soooo good. We enjoyed it!"
Aryan, 10, and Niya, 8, Florida

"I got braces on and wanted a cold drink, so the slushie was just what I craved! This drink is very flavorful!"
Josie, 11, New Jersey

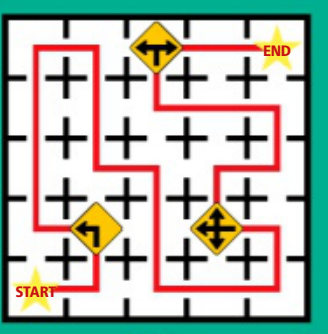
"I made the strawberry slushie with visiting family members."
Ina, 8, Maryland

GET THE RECIPE! With an adult, go to theweekjunior.com/activities to find out how to make the slushie.

"We added blueberries as well as strawberries to the recipe. Yum!"
Campbell, 9, Texas

Puzzle answers (from page 26)

Word ladder
heat
head
herd
hard
harm
warm
worm
wore
wove
wave



Stepping stones
mercury, uranium

		50		
27	÷	3	=	9
5				−
=				2
10	+	6	=	16
		7		

Quiz answers (from page 30)
1 c) Poseidon **2** True **3** Spiny-tailed gecko **4** True **5** b) Johannesburg **6** Maurice Sendak **7** False. Only males sing. **8** b) Nigeria **9** South America **10** c) Marines **11** False. He will eat the Moon. **12** a) Las Vegas Aces **13** True **14** c) San Francisco **15** Chief Candy Officer

POPJAM

Sign up and follow @theweekjuniorus on PopJam, a social media platform for kids 7–12. Ask an adult to download the app from iTunes or Google Play.

We asked: What are you looking forward to about the new school year?

"I'm excited to see my old friends and make new ones."

"Getting work that is more challenging."

"Getting good grades."

"Meeting my new teacher!"

In the big debate, we asked: Should cities have car-free streets?

"Yes, it would be more eco-friendly."

"No, it would cause more traffic in the already busy streets."

"Definitely. There need to be more places where people can walk around safely."

"No, because cars are a lot more convenient."

Now tell us: Who is your favorite character from mythology and why?

We want to hear from you! To have your letters, photos, nominations, recommendations, or ideas considered for inclusion in the magazine, please include your full name, age, and state with your submission. By emailing your submission to us, you give *The Week Junior* consent to publish it in the magazine and online. Please get your parent/guardian's permission before sending anything to us.

ON THIS PAGE: GETTY IMAGES; ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES

Quiz of the week

How much of this week's news can you remember?

1 In the Percy Jackson and the Olympians books, which Greek god is Percy's father?

a) Zeus b) Hera c) Poseidon

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

2 True or false? Serena Williams won her first US Open at 17 years old.

True ☐ False ☐

3 A group of pygmy possums in Australia were found sharing a nest with what type of lizard?

---

4 True or false? A poll recently found that most Americans support replacing the Electoral College with the popular vote.

True ☐ False ☐

5 A famous skull of a human ancestor named Mrs. Ples was found near what city in South Africa?

a) Cape Town b) Johannesburg c) Pretoria

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

6 Costume and set designs on display at a Boston museum were created by what children's author and illustrator?

---

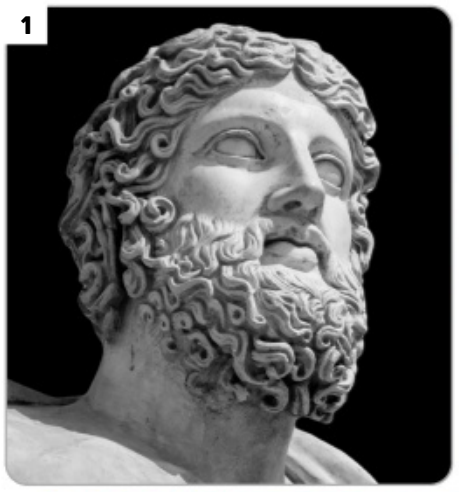
7 True or false? Male and female humpback whales are known for their long songs.

True ☐ False ☐

8 Historic artifacts called the Benin Bronzes are being returned to the government of what country?

a) Algeria b) Nigeria c) Namibia

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐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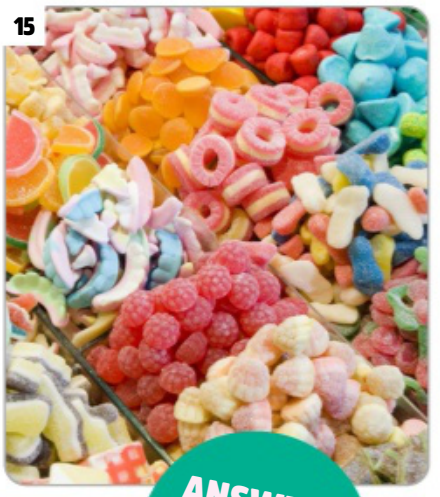
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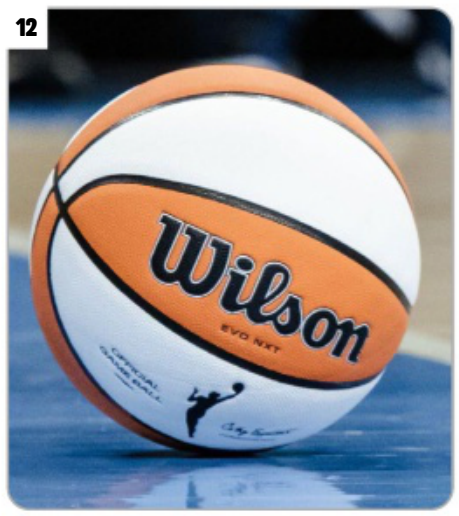
7

ANSWERS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 29.



12

8

9 The movie The Emperor's New Groove is set in an ancient empire on what continent?

---

10 Michael E. Langley was recently named a four-star general of what branch of the US military?

a) Air Force b) Navy c) Marines

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

11 True or false? In the book Fenris & Mott, a prophecy says that Fenris will eat the Sun.

True ☐ False ☐

12 Which WNBA team earned the number one seed in the playoffs?

a) Las Vegas Aces b) Chicago Sky

c) Seattle Storm

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

13 True or false? Darkling beetle larvae are able to eat a packing material called polystyrene.

True ☐ False ☐

14 A new park that sits on top of two highway tunnels just opened in what California city?

a) Los Angeles

b) San Diego

c) San Francisco

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

15 A Canadian company called Candy Funhouse is hiring for what job that involves tasting candy?

THE WEEK Junior

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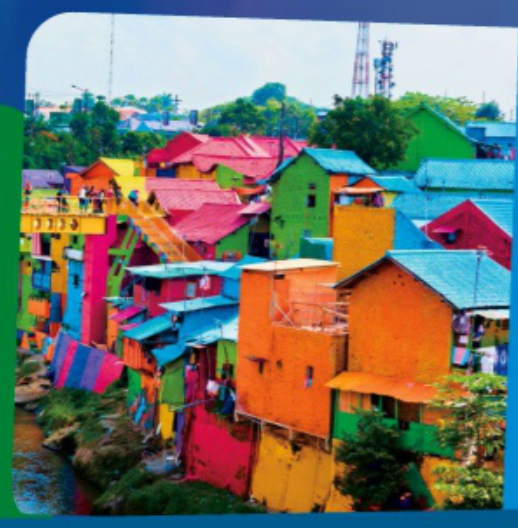

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